

Correctional Sergeant Receives NCThinks Award for Suggestion

She will use leave time to move into new apartment

By Peggy Beach, NCThinks State Coordinator

In August 2009, Governor Beverly Perdue made a video about NCThinks, the state's online suggestion system for state employees. Jenny Tadie, then a correctional officer at the Charlotte Correctional Center, (CCC) saw the video and realized that she had found the venue she needed for her idea.

"I already had ideas before the Governor said anything but I did not know how to go about letting someone know of the ideas," said Tadie. "When I saw the Governor talking about NCThinks in the video, I knew that I was going to submit my suggestion."

At the time, Tadie had the responsibility of being the inmate trust fund officer. When inmates' transferred to another unit, she had to write a check to that unit in order to clear out the inmates' account at CCC. "Sometimes, I wrote checks for as little as five cents," said Tadie. "There was times when inmates would be transferred into our unit asking about their money from another unit. It got to be hassle."

A few months after seeing the Governor's video, Tadie submitted her idea to the NCThinks website. She recommended that inmate funds be transferred electronically through the prison's Opus Banking System. Evaluators at the NC Department of Public Safety estimate that the suggestion saves about \$100 a year. Tadie's supervisor, Richard Neely and Acting Superintendent, Robert Hardin, approved the suggestion's implementation.

In early May, Tadie told the members of the NCThinks State Review Committee about the impact of her suggestion. "Using the Opus system means that we do not have to write checks for 2 cents or 50 cents," she said. "It also means that checks do not get lost in the mail and the inmates know where their money is." The committee unanimously approved three days leave for the suggestion.

Committee member Art Anthony praised Tadie for her initiative. "It is important for state employees to make suggestions to improve state government," he said. "If nobody brings it up, nothing happens to create change."

When CCC closed in 2011, Tadie transferred to the Neuse Correctional Institution in Goldsboro. She has been promoted to correctional sergeant and is very excited about her NCThinks award.

“I plan to use my leave when I move into my new apartment,” she said. “I would advise anyone that has a suggestion to submit it. Their suggestion might be the one that saves the state of NC a lot of money. No suggestion is a dumb suggestion. I would like to thank NCThinks for accepting my suggestion. This has been an exciting moment for me and very much a rewarding one. I hope to make more suggestions in the future.”

NCThinks is the state’s suggestion system for state employees. State employees can submit money-saving ideas online at www.ncthinks.nc.gov. Since its creation in 1975, NCThinks has saved the state more than \$11.8 million.

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Left to right: Lee White, Art Anthony both of the NCThinks State Review Committee, Jenny Tadie of the Neuse Correctional Center, Peggy Beach, NCThinks State Coordinator, Regina Hill and Keith Dupuis, both of the NCThinks State Review Committee. Tadie was awarded three days leave for her suggestion to improve inmate banking. May 9, 2012